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VA chief announcement expected

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WASHINGTON

President Reagan is expected to stick to his choice of Assistant Army Secretary Harry Walters to head the Veterans Administration, Senate and veterans organization sources say.

Veterans sources said an announcement naming Walters to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of embattled VA Administrator Robert Nimmo could come by Thursday, Veterans Day.

Reagan last week postponed the announcement of Walters' nomination after congressional veterans affairs leaders, including Senate committee chairman Alan Simpson, R-Wyo., complained they had not been consulted.

Eighteen Republican senators, including majority leader Howard Baker, have asked Reagan to nominate Thomas Harvey, staff director of the Senate Veterans Committee.

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Harvey, 41, is a highly decorated Vietnam airborne company commander who practiced law before becoming a special assistant to former CIA Director Stansfield Turner.

*EXCERPTED*